

WI-42
Double Mills
Mardela Springs vicinity
Private

Mid to late nineteenth century

Double Mills holds long-term associations with Barren Creek that date to the mid eighteenth century. Although it is uncertain when a mill or mills were originally erected on this site, the property was included as part “Venables Pretention,” patented to Benjamin Venables in 1766. The first use of the label “Double Mills” is also unknown, but it was repeatedly referenced as such by the late eighteenth century. For much of its history saw and grist mills have operated at this location, thereby inspiring the name.

The buildings that define the Double Mills today date from the nineteenth century and include a two-story mill and a two-story miller’s house (See WI-380) as well as a single-story store building. For much of its history the mill property was owned by divided interests and operated by a miller.

During the mid nineteenth century the property was owned in part by Levin and Elizabeth Wright, who sold their interests “in the Mills (at Double Mills) to Joseph Wright on July 30, 1856. Wright family interests in the mill property were maintained in some part through the balance of the nineteenth century and until Samuel P. Wilson started acquiring partial shares in the mill and its appurtenances between 1899 and 1920, ultimately purchasing full ownership of the property.

The grist mill continued in operation until a storm in 1979 washed out the earthen dam. It was the last mill to operate in Wicomico County, and it survives as the only water-powered, nineteenth-century grist mill to survive in the lower three Eastern Shore counties.

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-42
Magi No.
DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Double Mills

and/or common

2. Location

street & number South side of Route 54 ☐ not for publication

city, town Mardela Springs ☒ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: storage

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Richard W. and Mary E. Wright

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map **9**, P. 61
liber 065

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 429

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

date 1970 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville state MD 21032

7. Description

Survey No. WI-42

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The property known as Double Mills is located on the south side of MD Route 54 a few miles east of Mardela Springs, Wicomico County, Maryland. The former mill complex consists of a two-story mill, a two-story frame dwelling (See WI-380) and a single-story board-and-batten frame store building. The mill stands on the edge of Mockingbird Pond, and it operated until a storm washed out the earthen dam in 1979.

The mill is a two-story frame structure supported on a brick foundation and sheathed with a combination of vertical boards and horizontal weatherboards. The medium pitched gable roof is covered with corrugated tin.

The east (main) elevation is an asymmetrical facade with the southern two thirds of the structure covered with vertical boards. The vertical board wall is pierced by a double door opening that is flanked by boarded over six-over-six sash windows. A pent eave formerly stretched across the wall above the first floor openings and below the second floor six-over-six sash windows. The base of the roof is finished with exposed and undecorated rafter ends. The north end of the mill is sheathed with horizontal weatherboards and is accessed by a large board door hung on rollers. A shed roofed extension of the main roof shelters the entrance. Rising through the roof is a single flue brick chimney.

The south gable end is defined by a collapsed single-story shed roofed addition sheathed with vertical boards and covered with corrugated tin. The shed roofed section housed part of the mill wheel apparatus. Piercing the gable end above the shed roof are three boarded over six-over-six sash windows that once lighted the second story, and another six-over-six sash window pierces the upper gable end.

The north wall is sheathed with plain weatherboards with boarded over window openings on three levels. The mill extends to rear under a continuation of the gable roof.

Standing on the north side of the mill is a single-story board and batten frame store building supported on brick piers and covered by a steeply pitched corrugated tin roof. The three-bay frame structure has an asymmetrical front (west) elevation with an off center door and flanking six-over-six sash window openings. Extending to the rear is a shed roofed addition. A difference in construction is clearly indicated on the south gable end where the siding shifts from vertical board-and-batten siding on the main house to horizontal weatherboards on the shed addition. A single flue brick chimney rises against the gable end to the left of window openings. Another single flue brick stack rises against the north gable end.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-42

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Double Mills holds long-term associations with Barren Creek that date to the mid eighteenth century. Although it is uncertain when a mill or mills were originally erected on this site, the property was included as part “Venables Pretention,” patented to Benjamin Venables in 1766.¹ The first use of the label “Double Mills” is also unknown, but it was repeatedly referenced as such by the late eighteenth century. For much of its history saw and grist mills have operated at this location, thereby inspiring the name.

The buildings that define the Double Mills today date from the nineteenth century and include a two-story mill and a two-story miller’s house (See WI-380) as well as a single-story store building. For much of its history the mill property was owned by divided interests and operated by a miller.

During the mid nineteenth century the property was owned in part by Levin and Elizabeth Wright, who sold their interests “in the Mills (at Double Mills) to Joseph Wright on July 30, 1856.”² Wright family interests in the mill property were maintained in some part through the balance of the nineteenth century and until Samuel P. Wilson started acquiring partial shares in the mill and its appurtenances between 1899 and 1920, ultimately purchasing full ownership of the property.³

The grist mill continued in operation until a storm in 1979 washed out the earthen dam. It was the last mill to operate in Wicomico County, and it survives as the only water-powered, nineteenth-century grist mill to survive in the lower three Eastern Shore counties.

The architectural and historical merit of Double Mills qualify it for listing in *Category A* and its significance also makes it eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

¹ Ruth T. Dryden, *Land Records of Wicomico County, 1666-1810*, Family Line Publications, 1992, p. 413.

² Norman Perego, “The Double Mills,” unpublished research report, p. 4, Edward Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture, Salisbury State University.

³ *Ibid*, p. 5.

WI-42
Double Mills
Mardela Springs vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 9, Parcel 61

665/429 Juanita M. Jones

to

2/2/1968 Richard W. Wright
Mary E. Wright

665/425 Richard W. Wright
Mary E. Wright
Edward C. Wright
Ellen D. Wright

to

2/2/1968 Juanita M. Jones

JWTS 447/195 Martha J. Thomas, widow

to

4/15/1958 Charles M. Wright
Richard W. Wright
Edward C. Wright

JWTS 291/25 Harold M. Bennett and others

to

6/3/1947 Tennesse Thomas
Martha M. Thomas

2.79 acres "Double Mills Property"

WI-42

Page 2

Double Mills

Mardela Springs vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland

Chain of title continued

JWTS 269/117

John P. Bennett and others

to

1/31/1945

Harold M. Bennett

Carl P. Bennett

Item 4

IDT 179/319

Jennie Wilson, widow

Norman S. Wilson

Mildred G. Wilson

to

2/8/1933

John P. Bennett

Harold M. Bennett

Darcy O. Bennett

Carl P. Bennett

IDT 179/318

F. Grant Goslee, trustee

to

2/4/1933

Norman S. Wilson

No. 4275 Chancery \$300 at auction

JTT 24/306

E. Stanley Toadvine, trustee

to

4/12/1899

Samuel P. Wilson

One undivided 1/18 interest--ordered to sell the real
estate of Joseph H. Howard \$1100.75

THE DOUBLE MILLS

WI-42

By: R. Norman Peregoy

The land records of Somerset and Wicomico Counties refer to the Double Mills and the Mill Lot (approximately two acres in size) as being a part of a land grant called "Venables Pretention." This tract of land consisting of 95 acres was patented to Benjamin Venables, Sr. in 1766. It is difficult to establish the date when the Double Mills were built. The will of William Venables, son of Benjamin Venables, Senior, dated March 17, 1775 and filed at the Somerset County Court House (Liber EB5, pages 90-92) refers frequently to "my mills and mill pons (sic) but does not identify them by name. The will of his brother, Capt. Joseph Venables, (who commanded the Barren Creek Company of the Maryland Militia during the Revolutionary War) which was filed on Dec. 15, 1788, and probated on "the 29th day of December 1788 (Liber E.B. 17, folio 43), refers repeatedly to the "Middle Mill Pond" and the "Middle Mills;" the will also refers to "a sawmill known as "Gabey," or the Upper Mill on the north side of the main branch of Barren Creek," and "my Sawmill and Grist Mills commonly known by the name of Lower Mills on the South Side of Barren Creek." (There is no question that the "Middle Mills" are the Double Mills as subsequent land records positively identify them as such.) Although the will identifies the property as "the Middle Mills" it specifically refers only to a saw mill located on the site. "I do give and bequeath unto my brother Benjamin the priviledge (sic) of sawing at the Middle Mills one month in every year provided he returns the Mills to my Executor in the like good order he receives them." Captain Venables willed the property to his grandson, Samuel, with the proviso that if his grandson "should die without heirs lawfully begotten of his body I do give and bequeath unto Nancy Wilson, Benjamin Venables, and Richard Venables, the daughter and sons of William Venables (his brother) all that part of the

Middle Mills." Apparently Samuel Venables did not reach his majority or died without issue for on the 16th day of February, 1798, the said Benjamin Venables, for the sum of "Sixty-five pounds current money," sold his "right, title, claim, and interest in the Mills called and known by the name of Double Mills or Middle Mills which was devised to me by Capt. Joseph Venables, dec'd. with the priviledges (sic) of stream or streams, dam, yards, bank or banks to build or rebuild on, the cutting and carting of any timber, etc." The purchaser was a Jonathan Waller or Walter, who apparently married into the Venables family. Once again, although only the saw mill is specifically mentioned, the Mills are spoken of in the plural indicating that more than one existed on the site.

On the same date - the 16th day of February, 1798 - another legatee mentioned in the Item Thirteenthly of the Will of Capt. Joseph Venables, one Richard Venables, the son of his brother William, sold "my right, title, claim, etc. into the Mills (plural) called and known by the name of Duble (sic) Mills which was devised to me by Capt. Joseph Venables, dec'd." The purchaser was a George Wilson, Junr.

A search of the Somerset County Land Records failed to disclose any record of the sale of Nancy Wilson's interest or claim in the Double Mills which had passed to her in the Will of Capt. Joseph Venables. Apparently on the death of her first husband, Jesse Wilson, she sold her rights to his property to a Lazarus Lankford for the sum of \$100 on Nov. 12, 1825. She subsequently married a Thomas Cottingham and following his demise sold her claim to his lands to a John Cottingham for \$100 on April 8, 1826. There is also recorded a deed dated May 14, 1840, by which she and several other parties, for the sum of \$1500 transfer to Jesse Walter "all their right, title, etc., in all the estate, real and personal of Samuel Walter deceased." None of the foregoing would seem to relate to the Mills at Double Mills.

July 30, 1856 - Levin Wright, and wife Elizabeth Wright, sold unto Joseph Wright, and wife Sarah, their interest "in the Mills (at Double Mills)". Joseph Wright was now sole owner of an apparent two-thirds interest in the Mill.

November 30, 1863 - Joseph Wright, and his wife Sally, sold "two thirds of a Mill, Lot and House, and one-sixth part of said Mill, Lot and House the said lot (being) part of a tract called Venables Pretention" to Noah H. Howard and William F. Wilson, of Somerset County. Sale price was \$166.00. Since Mr. Wilson had previously purchased a one third interest in the Mill, he and Mr. Howard were now sole owners.

In 1867 the new county of Wicomico was carved from the northwest part of Somerset County. Land records concerning the Mills from this time on are located at the Wicomico County Court House, in the office of the Clerk of the Court. As noted before I am still researching these records to uncover certain key documents which have so far eluded me.

At the time the new county came into being the apparent owners of the Double Mills were Noah H. Howard and William F. Wilson. This partnership began to dissolve on Oct. 28, 1869, when William F. Wilson, and his wife, Elizabeth, sold their "one-third of the property known as the Double Mills" to John H. Bacon and Trainor Bounds for the sum of \$2500.00. On January 5, 1870, Train A. Bounds and his wife sold their interest in the property to John H. Bacon. This Bacon who was a prosperous merchant and land-owner in the Barren Creek District at this time apparently tried to purchase the Double Mills outright at this time. However, he succeeded only in acquiring a one-half (actually a seven-fifteenths) interest in the Mills. Apparently Noah H. Howard, Wilson's partner, must have owned a two-thirds interest in the Mills and this interest passed on to his heirs who each inherited fractional portions of Howard's interest. This supposition is buttressed by these transactions: On November 11, 1876, Robert W. Howard sold to John H. Bacon, for \$375 his "one twentieth part of the property known as the Double Mills", and on

March 7, 1877, for \$400, Noah J. Howard and wife Rachel sold to John H. Bacon their "one twelfth part of the property known as the Double Mills". From this point on until Samuel Wilson purchased the Mill property in its entirety the details of ownership are rather sketchy. At this time I do not know how the Howard interest was disposed although it obviously was divided fractionally amongst surviving heirs as deaths occurred in the family.

Wicomico County land records indicate that by 1880 Levin W. Wright owned a fractional share of the Double Mills property - probably a one third interest - which was left to his sons Levin Edw. Wright, Joseph A. Wright, and John A. Wright.

In 1883 a miller named Samuel P. Wilson moved to Mardela Springs from Laurel, Del. He engaged in a milling and mercantile business at the Double Mills, and in 1889 he began buying up the many fractional shares held by heirs of Noah Howard, John Bacon, and Levin W. Wright.

These transactions included:

$\frac{1}{8}$? -

April 12, 1899 - E. Stanley Toadvine, trustee of the estate of Gordy Joseph Howard sold a one-eighth interest in the Double Mills to Samuel P. Wilson.

May 13, 1899 - James P. Ellegood, Trustee of the estate of John H. Bacon sold a one-half interest in the Double Mills to Samuel P. Wilson.

March 6, 1909 - Azariah B. Howard, and others, sold a one-sixth interest in the Double Mills property to Samuel O. Wilson.

April 2, 1919 - John A. Wright and wife Sally, Emma Wright, Lula E. Wright, Lena Taylor and her husband Howard, Edna Mae Harcum and her husband W. Penn, Berkley James, Josephus A. Wright, Arthur L. Wright, Mary Grace Wright and Nathan James, heirs of L. E. Wright and Jennie Wright, deceased, sold a one-sixth interest in the Double Mills to Samuel P. Wilson. Sale price - \$150.00

August 6, 1920 - Florence Bell Howard, Bertha F. Howard, Margaret G. Ellis and her husband Oscar F., heirs of Henry Howard, sold a one-fifteenth interest in "the Double Mills property being the first mill above the Mill known as the Barren Creek Mill."

With the purchase of this share, Wilson became the sole owner of the Double Mills property, the first sole owner in over a century.

Following his death, the Mills property which included the miller's home, a general store, and a grist mill was sold to John P. Bennett of Mardela Springs, and his sons Harold M., Darcy O., and Carl P. Bennett. In 1945 ownership passed to Harold M. and Carl P. Bennett. Shortly thereafter, on June 3, 1947, the Bennetts sold the Double Mills property, containing 2.79 acres of land, more or less, to Tennessee Thomas and wife, Martha. The last in a long line of owners took possession of the property when on April 5, 1958, Charles M., Richard W., and Edward C. Wright purchased the property. The mill continued to operate until a severe storm in 1979 washed out the mill dam. Without its source of energy the mill was forced to close down after approximately two centuries of a mill operation on the site.

In the Office of the Register of Wills, Somerset County, Md.

Willbook: Liber E.B. 17, Folio 34, 1788-1799

Date of Will: Dec. 15, 1788

"In the name of God, Amen. the fifteenth day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty eight. I Joseph Venables of Sommerset (sic) County and State of Maryland being sick and weakly of Body but of perfect sound mind and memory, blessed be Almighty God for the same and calling to mind the mortality of my body and that it is appointed for all men ~~once~~ to die I do make and ordain this my last will and testament in the manner and form following viz--

First I give and bequeath ~~unto~~ unto my beloved wife Nelly Venables one negro woman named Tamor one Negro woman named Nance and one Negro boy named Davey and my new riding chair and a horse to be purchased for her use, the purchase money to come out of my Estate; also thirty pounds per year to be paid her out of my Estate during her natural life and if the Negro woman Tamor shall live longer than the aforesaid Nelly Venables she shall be free if she chooses so to be; further I do give and bequeath unto my wife aforesaid the bed she now sleeps on with all the furnature (sic) and any two rooms in the house she shall think proper (sic) for her own use----

Secondly I do give and bequeath unto my grandson Samuel Venables all the remainder of my real and personal estate to him and his heirs lawfully begotten of his Body forever except such legacies as I shall hereafter mention. Thirdly I do give and bequeath unto my nephew Joseph Venables, son to Benjamin Venables one saw mill known by the name of Garby (Gabey ?) or the upper mill and all the land I hold of Venables Pretentions on the north side of the main branch of Barren Creek and to the eastward of a tract of land called White Chapple

Joseph Venables

seal

Charles Weatherly James Hutto Solomon his Wright

now in possession of John McCloyster excepting so much as is covered or may hereafter be covered by the water of the Middle Mill Pond with a six feet head on the shuttle gate and I do desire and allow the mill to be put into the care of Benjamin Venables untill (sic) the said Joseph Venables come of age and the profits arising therefrom to be applied (sic) in giving him, the said Joseph Venables, a Liberal Education and If my grandson Samuel Venables shall die without heirs lawfully begotten of his Body I do give and bequesth unto the aforesaid Joseph Venables, to him and his heirs forever all the land I hold in the "Western Fields" except one hundred acres willed by my father to Betty Bozman - Fourthly I do give and bequeath unto my brother Benjamin Venables all my Wareing (sic) apparel and the priviledge of sawing at the Middle Mills one month in every year during his natural life, he making up the month to commence from the first day he sets to work and continue from day to day untill the month is expired provided he returns the mills to my Executors in the like good order he receives them, the ware (sic) and Tare (sic) only excepted - Fifthly I give and bequeath unto Joseph Weatherly (sone of Constantine Weatherly, and Betty, his wife) one hundred acres of land being part of the Western Fields and to include part of an Old Field called Beeks, to him and his heirs forever, the said land being formerly willed by my father to Betty Bozman - Sixthly I give and bequeath unto Betsey Russum, (daughter of Mitchell Russum and Betsey, his wife) one Negro girl named Dianna to her and her heirs forever.

Joseph Venables

seal

Charles Weatherly, James Hust, Solomon ^{his} _{mark} Wright

Seventhly I give and bequeath unto Jesse Walker to him and his heirs forever one Negro boy Named Somerset and one half of my Sloop named the Sally and one half of my scow - Eighthly I give and bequeath unto my niece Nelly Bozman, to her, her heirs and assigns forever, my old riding chair and one horse called Spark, one good bed and furnature (sic) one Negro girl named Celie and one other Negro

girl named Melia, both daughters of Negro Phebey and both aforesaid Negro girls to be raised at the ~~exence~~ (sic) of my estate untill the aforesaid Nelly Bozman, be maryed (sic) and ~~she~~, the aforesaid Nelly Bozman is to be supported in a decent manner out of my estate untill she is maryed as aforesaid - Ninthly I give and bequeath unto my nephew Joseph Bozman, his heirs and assigns forever, one Negro boy named Paddy and one half of my sloop named Sally and one half of my scow and one Sorrel Mare, and if my grandson, Samuel Venables, should die without heirs lawfully begotten of his body I give unto the said Joseph Bozman one half of my Sawmill and Grist Mills commenly known by the name of the Lower Mills with all the houses that is my property on the South Side of Barren Creek, also all the lands called and known by the name of Wilsons Lott and all that part of a tract of and known by the name of Lebanon laying on the south side of the said Barren Creek branch to begin at the first boulder of Venables Pretentions from thence to run due South untill it intersects with Wilsons Lott and then down and with the line of Wilsons Lott and also one tract of land called and known by the name of the Warehouse Island and also one other tract of land or marsh called and known by the name of Malallys Folly.

Joseph Venables

seal

Charles Weatherly, James Hust, Solomon ^{his} ~~mark~~ Wright

Tenthly And if my grandson Samuel Venables should die without heirs lawfully begotten I do give and bequeath unto Joshua Brattan, son to James Brattan and Mary, his wife, one half of my saw mill and grist mills commenly known as the Lower Mills also all the land that I possess of a tract of land called and known by the name Miles End, also part of a tract of land called Lebanon to begin at the first boulder of Venables Pretentions and from thence due north untill it intersects with the line of a tract of land called Troublesome then down and with the line of Troublesome fifty poles thence due north until it intersects the line of a tract called White Chapple now in possession of John McCloyster,

then with a line drawn with White Chapple and Algate down to the northwest corner of Miles End; also one other tract of land called Iron Oar; also the privilege for pastureage of his own stock on the two tracts of land called House Island and the other called Brown Priviledge to him and his heirs forever.

Eleventhly - I give and bequeath unto Betty or Betsey Venables, daughter of William Venables and Rachel, his wife one Negro girl called Bett to her, her heirs, and assigns forever. Twelfthly And if my grandson Samuel should die without heirs lawfully begotten I give and bequeath unto Benjamin Venables, son of Benjamin Venables and Betsey, his wife one tract of land called the Flat Glade to him and his heirs forever.

Joseph Venables

Chas. Weatherly, etc.

Thirteenthly But if my grandson Samuel Venables should die without heirs lawfully begotten of his body I do give and bequeath unto Nancy Wilson, Benjamin Venables, and Richard Venables, the daughter and sons of William (Venables) and his wife Rachel, all that part of the Middle Mills not heretofore devised and all that part of a tract called Lebanon which lyeth on the south side of Barren Creek Branch and to the eastward of the lands devised to Joseph Bozman being part of the same tract, also my part of a tract of land called Venables Pretention not heretofore devised. Also a part of two separate tracts of land viz. Lebanon and Troublesome laying to the east ward of sundry lands devised to Joseph Brattan -

Fourteenthly But in case my Grandson Samuel Venables should die without heirs lawfully begotten of his Body it is my Will and Desire that my Executors shall sell to the best advantage my remaining part of a Tract of Land called "Addition to McDaniels Luck" and the Money ariseing (sic) therefrom to be paid unto Nelly Bozman and I do Impower (sic) my Executors to make over said Land -

Fifteenthly It is also my will and desire that if on settlement my friend Lewis Daltreiu if he should fall indebted to my or my Estate more then (sic) fifth pounds, he shall have Credit on the Acct. for fifty pounds of the sum due.

Sixteenthly

Joseph Venables

his
seal

Charles Weatherly, James Hust, Solomon ^{his} ~~mark~~ Wright

Sixteenthly But in case my Grandson Samuel Venables should die without heirs lawfully begotten of his Body I do hereby authorize and impower (sic) my Executors to sell and make over all that tract of land called Algate and all the remaining part of a tract of land called Lebanon which Lyeth on the North side of Land called Algate, also all the remaining part of my Movable Estate and the money ariseing (sic) from said sails (sic) to be applyed (sic) as I shall hereafter direct viz:

Betty Venables, daughter of William Venables; Joseph Bozman, Charles Venables, and Robert Venables, sons of Benjamin Venables; Elizabeth Venables, Nelly Smith, Nancy Venables Lalley (Salley ?), Dahiell Venables, Leah Venables Peggy Washington Venables, daughters of Benjamin Venables; Joshua Brattan, son of James Brattan; Betsey Weatherly, daughter of James Weatherly; and I do further order that the above said Real and Personal Estate be sold on one year credit at the discretion of my Executors and the money ariseing (sic) from said sails (sic) to be equally divided among the afore named Legatees -

Seventeenthly It is also my Will and desire that in case my Grandson Samuel Venables should die without heirs lawfully begotten of his Body that Joseph Bozman, Nancy Wilson, Benjamin Venables and Richard Venables

Joseph Venables

his
seal

Charles Weatherly, James Hust, Solomon ^{his} ~~mark~~ Wright

Daughters and Sons of William Venables-shll each of them have a previledge (sic) of Pasture for their own stock on a tract of land called Horse Island and upon one other tract of land called Browns Previledge (sic) to them their heirs and assigns forever - and I do hereby nominate, appoint, constitute, and ordain James Brattan and William Russum whole and sole Executors of this my last will and testament and that my said Executors shall be Guardeens (sic) to my Grandson Samuel Venables untill he arrives at the age of twenty one years and I do hereby ratify and confirm this and no other to be my last Will and Testament. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above Written.

Signed, Sealed, Published, and
Declared by the said Joseph
Venables to be his last Will
and Testament in presence of us
the Subscribers

Joseph Venables

his
seal

Charles Weatherly

James Hust

Solomon ^{his}_{mark} Wright

December the 29th day 1788. Then came James Brattan and William Russum and made oath upon the Holy Evangel of Almighty God that the within instrument containing seven sides is the true and whole last Will and Testament of Joseph Venables, Esq., late of Somerset County, deceased, that hath come to their hands or possession and that they do not know of any other.

Before Elmer Bayly, Reg. Wills, S. C.

December the 29th 1788. Then came Charles Weatherly, James Hust & Solomon Wright the subscribing witnesses to the within last Will and Testament of Joseph Venables, Esquire, late of Somerset County Deceased and is contained on seven sides of paper each side signed and sealed at the bottom and severally made oath upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God that they did see the Testator within named sign and seal the within Will and that they heard him publish pronounce, and declare the same to be his last Will and Testament and at the time of his so doing he was to the best of their apprehensions of sound and Disposing mind, memory, and understanding and they they did respectively sign their names as Witnesses to the Same in the presence and at the request of the Testator ---

Recorded in Liber E B 17, fol. 34-39.

Before Elmer Bayly, Reg. Wills Som. Co.



WI-42 Double Mills near Mardela

• 1965

WI-42

Double Mills was owned by John Waller and George Willson, Jr. per 1798 tax list which listed a wood sawmill house, 30 x 46. The 1877 atlas showed the site as J.H. Bacon and Co. with grist and saw mills on a pond along Barren Creek, downstream of I.J. Wright and Bro. Mill, upstream of Barren Pond.

The 1880 census listed Double Mills, Bacon & Co. with a sawmill using a 6-foot fall on "Nanticoke" to drive 4 Risdon wheels 8 ft broad at 60 rpm to develop 20 hp to cut 200,000 ft timber worth \$2825; 2 employees, and \$1400 capital.

The gristmill used 3 Risdon wheels of 4-foot breadth running at 100 rpm to develop 15 hp from a fall on Barren Creek. Output was 25 bbl flour and 10 tons meal (\$5000). The mill worth \$1800 had 1 employee, 60 bu/diem maximum, and all custom business.

The mill was standing in 1968 on Mockingbird Pond, owned by Richard W. and E.C. Wright and operated by Sherman E. and Beulah T. Cooper. The works had been built about 1880. Mr. Cooper remembered the miller there at the turn of the Century, Mr. Samuel Wilson. About 1933, the mill was remodeled as a turbine-powered feed works. The previous owner had been W.C. Thomas.

This mill offers custom grinding and stone-ground cornmeal and is located on a sand road south off Md. 467, the first farm road east of Grapevine Road; and near the first Mason-Dixon stone marking the SW corner of Delaware. Mockingbird Pond is large and deep, surrounded by pine woods. Cooper is a farmer rather than a born-and-bred miller; he studied the art with Frank S. Langrell of Caroline County.

"Got Hanking for Some Real Cornmeal -- Old Grist Mill Operated as Hobby By Shoreman," Frank Megargee, Evening Sun, April 11, 1968.

LANEY MILL (16)

I.H.A. Dulaney and sons had a steam mill at Fruitland per 1887 State directory.

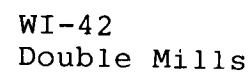
DUNN MILL ()

Richard Dunn owned a mill and house, 10 x 12, all out of repair, valued at \$60 on 1798 tax list of Nanticoke Hundred.

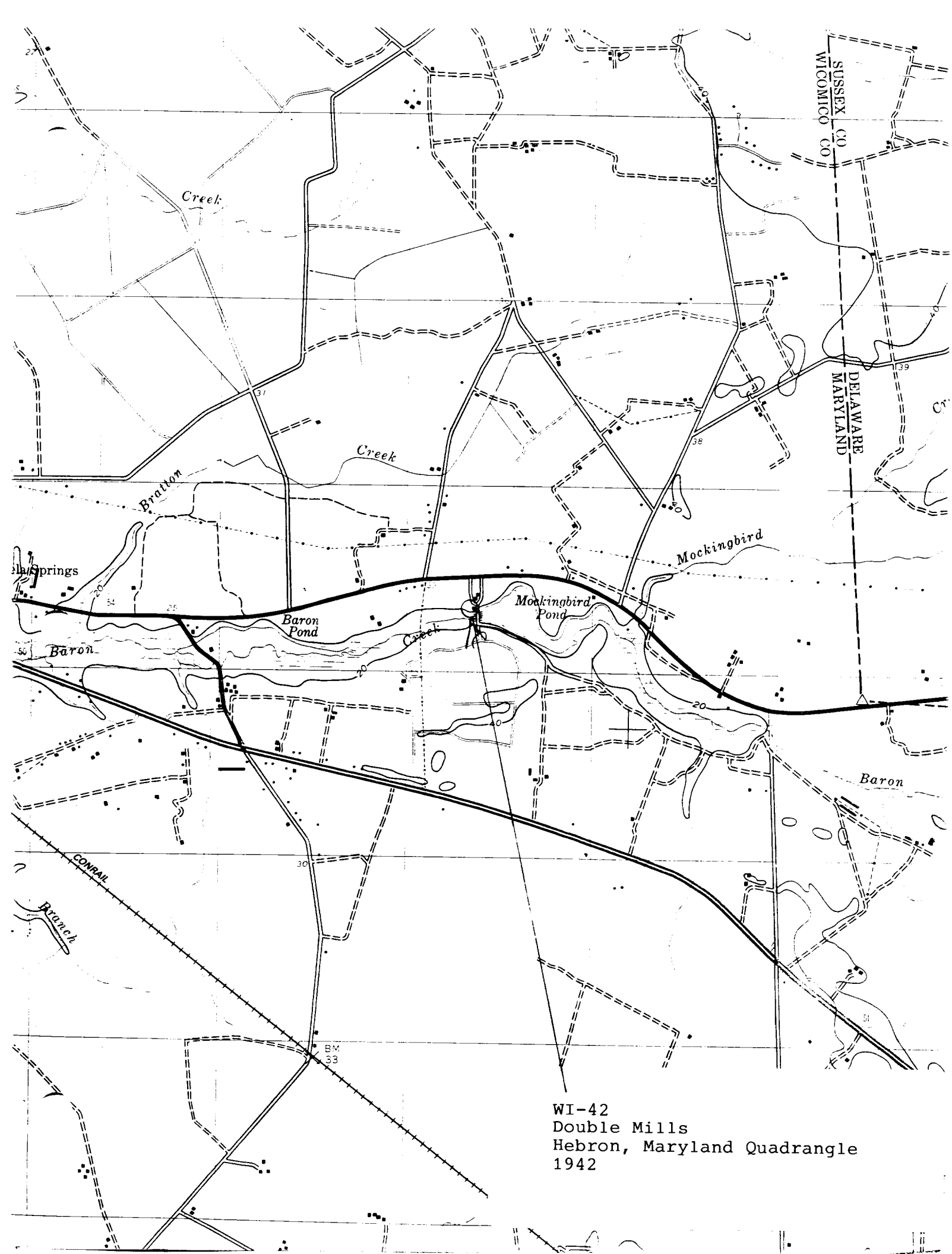
DYKES SAWMILL (8)

The 1880 census listed Dykes and Co. 10 hp steam sawmill of 280 rpm cutting 334,000 ft (\$2338) annually with 5 employees; the works did no logging and was idle 6 months of the year.

Dist. Nº1
WICOMICO Cº



Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson
Atlas 1877



WI-42
Double Mills
Hebron, Maryland Quadrangle
1942



42 42

Good - 100%

Problems - 100%

100% - 100% - 100% - 100%

100% - 100% - 100% - 100%


100% - 100% - 100% - 100%

100% - 100%





2300423514

1. STATE Delaware Maryland COUNTY Wicomico TOWN Mandela Springs VICINITY STREET NO. Rt 467, 1.7 miles East of Rt 313 (south, 2 mile to mill) ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE Grist mill PRESENT OWNER Richard W. Wright et al. PRESENT USE Grist mill WALL CONSTRUCTION frame NO. OF STORIES 2		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY Wi-42	
2. NAME Double Mills DATE OR PERIOD c. 1850 STYLE industrial ARCHITECT BUILDER		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION Sherman T. Cooper property, begun: 1800, on Mockingbird pond. two-story frame structure (three from west side) undershot wheel Present building appears mid-nineteenth century STILL IN OPERATION		OPEN TO PUBLIC yes	
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered NO Interior fair Exterior poor			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional) 		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER Michael Bourne MD. HISTORICAL TRUST BOX 1704 ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404 DATE OF RECORD Jan, 1970	

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTO
PHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE



WI-42 Double Mills near Mardela

Danb Sills
1965

W1-42



Wi-42 House at Double Mills

1978

W1-42

PHOTO --

O. V. WOOD

323 BREWSTER AVE.

SALISBURY, MD.



Wi-42 House at Double Mills

1978

W1-42

PHOTO —
O. V. WOOTTEN
323 BACWINGTON ROAD
SALT LAKE CITY